

HONORING THE CHILDREN'S  
DEFENSE FUND**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2003*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the most effective child advocacy organization in the United States of America, or any place else in the world—the Children's Defense Fund (CDF). Founded in 1973 by the creative, dedicated and far-sighted Marian Wright Edelman, the CDF has played a key role in keeping the needs, hopes and aspirations of our children in the eyes and minds of policy makers and the general public.

Through its research and education efforts the CDF has educated, motivated, and stimulated millions of parents to become more aware of the needs of their children and how they too can become advocates for them. The CDF has provided health support, informed parents on how to use the Children's Health Insurance Program, put together the Student Health Outreach Project and through its Child Welfare and Mental Health Division works to support and protect children and their families who have been abused, neglected, suffered serious emotional problems and in some instances have even been left homeless.

Education is indeed the key that unlocks the door to success and in this arena the CDF has been unwavering in trying to make head start available to every child, supporting educational programs like the 21st Century Community Learning Center, after-school programs, the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), the Infants and Toddlers Program, the Campus Based Childcare, and early Childhood Educator Professional Development Program, as well as countless others.

Mr. Speaker, our children are indeed the future, and as the songwriter said: "teach them well and let them lead the way," well for thirty years the CDF has been leading the way and pointing out to America that they need our support, financially, morally, spiritually, educationally, and emotionally if they are to become the leaders that we need for tomorrow. Yes, the CDF for thirty years has fought the good fight, you have paved the way, you are leading us into the light, and we simply pause to take note and say thank you—Marian Wright Edelman, and thank you Children's Defense Fund.

ON THE VETERANS' SURVIVING  
CHILDREN'S BENEFITS ACT**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2003*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, with our nation at war, young men and women in uniform are placed in harm's way and risk losing their lives. Sadly, some have already made the ultimate sacrifice. We owe these brave individuals a great debt, and we also owe that debt to their families.

The surviving spouses of military personnel who die in service and veterans who die as a result of service-connected disabilities become the sole caregivers for their children. They deserve the best assistance that our nation can provide. For this reason I am introducing the Veterans' Surviving Children's Benefits Act.

In 2001, the Department of Veterans Affairs completed a congressionally mandated evaluation of survivorship benefits paid to the families of men and women who have given their lives for their country. According to the results, a surviving spouse with dependent children needed to receive an additional \$250 per month in Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). With the additional \$250 per month, the benefits provided to a surviving spouse with children would be comparable to the benefits received by a surviving spouse who did not have children. The study found a \$250 increase in monthly benefits was needed regardless of the number of children in the family.

The Veterans' Surviving Children's Benefits Act would provide a \$250 monthly increase in survivor benefits recommended for surviving spouses with children. While no amount of money can ever compensate a child for the loss of a parent, I believe that we should assure that surviving spouses with children have their needs met to at least the same extent as surviving spouses without children.

I ask my colleagues to join me in providing this small but necessary comfort to the surviving children of military personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

ROLF SCHULZE: ACADEMIC, UNION  
LEADER, FRIEND**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2003*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate

Dr. Rolf Schulze upon the occasion of his retirement as a professor at San Diego State University (SDSU), the institution of learning at which I also taught for 20 years. Rolf has outdone me, though, with a teaching career of 34 years!

I first met Rolf in the early 1970s, when we were both new to SDSU. I discovered a man of conviction, dedicated both to his academic endeavors and to his belief in the importance of the labor movement. Rolf began as a trade union member at 15 years of age. He came to the United States from Germany at age 17 with few dollars in his pocket but very large dreams. After serving in the military, he obtained his PhD at Michigan State University, followed by his appointment to teach at SDSU.

Rolf became president of the United Professors of California in 1970 and later, when it became the California Faculty Association, he served several more terms as president, as well as serving as a member of the SDSU Senate. He now is a member of the Executive Board of the San Diego/Imperial Counties Labor Council.

Rolf exhibited his special talents in working for solidarity within his own union, as well as with other unions—promoting quality education, fair working conditions, compensation and benefits. He has been a leader in helping to institute many democratic cost reforms within the California academic system.

As a Sociology professor, Rolf demonstrated his love of teaching, research, and writing. His students consider him to be an inspiration to them, coming back to acknowledge his influence years after their graduation. It is well known that there is "standing room only" on the first day of his classes. He challenges his students to think for themselves, to question, and not to settle for the status quo but always to look for better ways to solve problems and to guard our liberties.

Rolf's way of solving problems at all levels is to communicate openly and to encourage the building of consensus. He has been a leader in bringing faculty, unions, and administration together for the betterment of all, not by grandstanding—which is not his way—but through his own brand of quiet, patient listening, showing respect for all points of view.

Upon his retirement, he leaves the university a far better place. He is joined in celebrating his accomplishments by his wife Jane Carney Schulze, his sons Mark and Eric, and his daughters-in-law Patty Mooney and Tina Thomas.

My best wishes go to my colleague and my good friend, Rolf Schulze.